"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day....

II Samuel 3:38

Governor Mel Carnahan 1934-2000



Mel Carnahan

• 1934 - 2000 •

Memorial Program

October 20, 2000 Missouri State Capitol South Lawn Jefferson City

The Man ... The Mission

Mel Carnahan, 66, fifty-first Governor of the State of Missouri from Rolla, Missouri, died in an airplane crash on October 16, 2000, in rural Jefferson County, while on his way to a political event in New Madrid.

Governor Carnahan was running for the United States Senate, after two remarkably successful four-year terms as Governor. Among the major accomplishments of his administration were the Outstanding Schools Act, a comprehensive package of reforms, new resources, and accountability measures to improve Missouri's public schools; major tax relief for working families; welfare reform; some of the toughest anti-crime laws in the nation; and primary health care services for thousands of previously uninsured Missouri children.

Born in the small Ozark town of Birch Tree, Missouri, in 1934, Carnahan lived his early years in Shannon and Carter counties. He was the son of rural school teachers, and he carried on a longstanding family commitment to education during his distinguished career of public service. His father, the late A.S.J. Carnahan, a contemporary of President Harry Truman, served in the United States Congress for 14 years before being named by President Kennedy as the first U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone. His mother, the late Mary Carnahan, was an inspiration to hundreds of school children during her many years as a high school English teacher.

Governor Carnahan began his lifelong commitment to public service at the young age of 26, when he was elected municipal judge in his hometown of Rolla in 1961. Two years later, he won a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives and was elected Majority Floor Leader in his second term. Following his four years in the Missouri House, he returned to his hometown of Rolla where he built a successful law practice. In 1980, he was

elected State Treasurer by more votes than any other previous non-incumbent and served in this position for four years. The Governor returned to public office in 1988, becoming Missouri's 42nd Lieutenant Governor. In a landslide victory in 1992, he won the Governor's office with more votes than any other candidate on the ballot. Missouri voters overwhelmingly returned him to office for a second term in 1996.

For the past 46 years, he has been married to his high school sweetheart, Jean Carpenter, from Washington, D.C., who paralleled Governor Carnahan's success with her own as one of the most highly respected and popular First Ladies in Missouri history.

Governor Carnahan held a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from George Washington University and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1959 with the highest scholastic honors—Law Review and Order of the Coif. He was a United States Air Force veteran, a 33rd Degree Mason, and a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in Rolla. He served as Chairman of both the Southern and Democratic Governors' Associations.

Governor Carnahan will forever be remembered as an advocate for children and working families. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that contributions be made to The Children's Trust Fund, a not-for-profit charitable organization that helps abused and underprivileged children. Contributions can be sent to The Children's Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1641, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1641.

Governor Carnahan is survived by his wife, Jean, of the home; two sons, Russ and Tom, both of St. Louis; one daughter, Robin, of St. Louis; one daughter-in-law, Debra Carnahan, of St. Louis; one brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Oma Carnahan of Rolla; and two grandsons, Austin and Andrew.

A Celebration of the Life of Mel Carnahan

PROCESSIONAL LONDONDERRY AIR

St. Louis Symphony String Quartet

CARNAHAN FAMILY

PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE

DIGNITARIES AND FRIENDS

WELCOME AND PRAYER

THE REVEREND EMMANUEL CLEAVER
St. James United Methodist Church

KANSAS CITY

SCRIPTURE

Dr. E. Gene Rooney

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JEFFERSON CITY

REMEMBRANCES

HONORABLE THOMAS F. EAGLETON FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR

DR. COLEEN KIVLAHAN

FORMER DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Mr. James Caccamo

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Music

MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

University of Missouri-Columbia

REMEMBRANCES

HONORABLE MICHAEL A. WOLFF

JUDGE OF THE

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT

CARNAHAN FAMILY MEMBER

REMARKS AND HONORABLE ROGER WILSON

INTRODUCTION GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Music Jesus Loves Me

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

JEFFERSON CITY

PRAYER THE REVEREND EARL NANCE

President

St. Louis Clergy Coalition

REMEMBRANCE HONORABLE WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

CLOSING PRAYER RABBI SUSAN TALVE

CENTRAL REFORM CONGREGATION

St. Louis

Music Battle Hymn of the Republic

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

University of Missouri-Columbia

CEREMONIAL BATTERY D/129TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Salute Missouri Army National Guard

TAPS

MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

F-15 "Missing Man" formation Missouri Air National Guard

*RECESSIONAL AMAZING GRACE

BAGPIPES-DAVID SANDBACK

^{*}PLEASE OBSERVE THE FAMILY RECESSIONAL WITH SILENCE.

Mel Carnahan's Legacy

T o understand Mel Carnahan you have to know that politics was not his life. Service was. He understood that what government does matters to real people. He often said he did not hold office just to keep the chair warm.

Mel Carnahan entered and exited the public stage several times over the past 40 years. He entered public life as a young man, serving as municipal judge, state representative, and then running for the state senate. After his defeat for state senate in 1966, he went home to Rolla and stayed in private life for 14 years, returning after being elected Treasurer in 1980. A premature run for Governor in 1984 resulted in a primary defeat that left a campaign debt of \$80,000 and was followed by a heart attack. For most political men, the career would have been over.

Mel Carnahan was not an ordinary politician. He fixed his heart and maintained a vigorous and healthful regimen. He returned to the stage in 1988, winning the Lieutenant Governor's office.

When he began running for Governor before the 1992 primary election, his primary opponent had most of his party's political support and money. Mel Carnahan had persistence and a faith in himself that helped to shield him from the taunts of those who said they knew better.

It's fair to say that Missouri voters rarely know well the man they elect as Governor. Mel Carnahan was a very private man, more inclined to discussing issues than talking about himself. He was rarely given to emotional outbursts, and hardly ever indulged in rhetorical flourish.

The voters lucked out. Mel Carnahan loved doing his job of Governor. He had a quick grasp of even the most intricate details of government. His strategic thinking was

truly extraordinary and he had an intuitive sense of how his decisions would affect the lives of ordinary Missourians.

His achievements will continue to affect our lives. He expanded state support for elementary, secondary, and higher education, and was personally involved in setting new and rigorous standards for public education. He immediately addressed the issue of court-ordered desegregation. He wanted to end those longstanding controversies justly, and eventually succeeded in freeing the state from court supervision and targeting resources to needy children throughout the state. He led reform and expansion of programs affecting the health of women and children, particularly Medicaid, which resulted in a decrease in the number of uninsured Missourians. He helped reform workers' compensation, the welfare system, and corrections.

The tougher the issue, the more he liked it. Nearly every aspect of state government at some point came under his scrutiny, and the state is better off for it.

He was a good man and a great governor.

As he neared the end of his successful two terms as Governor, his attention was turned to running for the United States Senate. He was at an age, 66, when an ordinary man would have rested on his laurels and gone home to the farm in Rolla.

To understand that Mel Carnahan was no ordinary man, we might consider the example set by his father, Congressman A.S.J. Carnahan, who represented south central Missouri from the 1940's to his defeat in 1960. After his defeat, Congressman Carnahan accepted President Kennedy's appointment as America's first ambassador to the new African country of Sierra Leone. At an age, 64, when an accomplished congressman would have left public life, or become a lobbyist, the elder Carnahan spent some of the last years of his life

travelling around the dangerous bush country of Sierra Leone, trying, as his son once told me, to make peace among the tribal rivalries of that troubled country.

Running for the United States Senate is no less arduous, and Missouri politics has its own tribal rivalries to make peace among. For an ordinary person, raising millions of dollars and seeking political support is a soul-wrenching, oppressive task.

But Mel Carnahan approached this task as a man on a mission. He had faith, he said, that he could serve Missouri better. He and his campaign were intensely competitive. But, perhaps because of his age, for Mel Carnahan the exercise seemed curiously devoid of personal ambition.

Mel Carnahan brought with him to his mission many talented younger people, including Chris Sifford, who was bright, affable, and dedicated. As a campaign aide, communications director, and one-time chief of staff, Chris devoted most of his adult life to Mel Carnahan and died with him. Mel Carnahan unfortunately was also joined in death by his son Randy, who was campaign treasurer, a valued confidant, and totally dedicated to his father.

Mel Carnahan, his wife Jean, his children, grandchildren, and his staff knew that running for the United States Senate would involve real sacrifice. But no one knew how great that sacrifice would be.

We mourn with the Carnahan family, and we are grateful. Mel Carnahan leaves a legacy of achievement and dedication to public service that is as inspiring as any monument.

MICHAEL A. WOLFF, JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH OCTOBER 18, 2000

Missouri's Best Friend For All Ages

Missouri's schools, along with the entire State of Missouri, forever lost a valued and trusted friend Monday night, October 16, when Governor Mel Carnahan was tragically killed in a plane accident while campaigning for the United States Senate. Also killed along with Carnahan was his son and pilot, Randy Carnahan, and his long-time trusted advisor, Chris Sifford.

During Governor Carnahan's eight years in office, funding for public schools doubled to \$1.9 billion this year from \$964 million during the 1993-94 school year. Schools drastically improved during the Carnahan years because of better trained teachers and smaller class sizes. A Missouri Department of Education spokesperson stated in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that in 1990 there were 40 school districts that were not accredited by the State. Now there is only one, Kansas City. Both accountability requirements and the much-needed funding increase have put more emphasis on students' academic performance which is what really matters in the end.

Besides improving Missouri's schools, Carnahan will be remembered in many other areas. Some of those things included building much needed prisons to house violent offenders, setting up a housing trust fund to reduce homelessness, expanding health coverage so that more children are covered by health care, and reducing the amount of sales tax we pay on food. In fact, Missouri is now rated number four in the nation in health coverage for children.

For those of us fortunate to have lived in Jefferson City during Governor Carnahan's administration, we have seen the many ways the Governor and First Lady, Jean Carnahan, have reached out to Missouri's children and families. A few of these things included the Saturday morning reading program at the Mansion for elementary

students, opening up the Mansion during the holidays for all to enjoy, and of course, the annual Mansion Spooktacular where one could often see the Governor and First Lady masquerading as President and Martha Washington, Uncle Sam, Meriwether Lewis and Sacajawea. Also, how could any of us forget the Disney Arts Festival held three years in a row on the Capitol grounds and paid for, not by state dollars, but with a grant written by Jean Carnahan.

Additionally, the Governor and Mrs. Carnahan visited many local schools throughout their term including Thomas Jefferson last year. The Governor and Mrs. Carnahan truly walked the walk by reaching out to all of us time and time again. The Governor dedicated his life completely to public service and was one of those rare persons that comes along and truly touches our lives in a meaningful way.

Though he has been taken from us, his legacy will surely continue. I can only hope that many of us will choose here and now to follow Governor and Mrs. Carnahan's outstanding example as we become the leaders of tomorrow.

A familiar saying comes to mind when thinking of our Governor... "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Yes, indeed, Governor Carnahan, you have truly fought the good fight for all Missourians. We will miss you.

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Dedicated to my good friend, Chris Sifford, who will be missed dearly by me and so many others whose lives he touched in his $36\ \text{years}.$

Amanda Schreiber 8th Grade • Thomas Jefferson Middle School Jefferson City

A Tribute To the Team

The Carnahan family would like to express its f L appreciation to all the staff and cabinet members, past and present, who worked with Governor Mel Carnahan throughout his administration. The "Carnahan Team" helped Mel realize his dreams for the State of Missouri. We know that we have almost certainly omitted the names of some who should be listed below. If you are among those we may have omitted, please accept our apologies and know that our deepest gratitude extends to all those who belong to this distinguished group. And, of course, we cannot begin to recite the names of the many thousands of state employees who have dedicated their lives to public service. Nor can we name here the many Missourians who volunteered their time or donated their resources to the campaigns and causes that were so important to Mel. But please be assured that you are all part of the legacy.

Missouri Cabinet Directors

(Past and Present)

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—JOHN SAUNDERS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
JERRY CONLEY (PRESENT), JERRY PRESLEY (FORMER)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS—DORA SCHRIRO

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-JOE DRISKILL

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION KENT KING (PRESENT), BOB BARTMAN (FORMER)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MAUREEN DEMPSEY (PRESENT), COLEEN KIVLAHAN (FORMER)

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. . .

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ROLLA

SCOTT & MISSY SORRELL PEGGY PYRON JOHN REECE ROBERTA WALLACEthere has passed away a glory from the earth.

~ WILLIAM WORDSWORTH